

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 G01H1/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 G01H

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, INSPEC, COMPENDEX

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|------------|---|-----------------------|
| A | US 5 875 420 A (BETHMANN JR WILLIAM F ET AL) 23 February 1999 (1999-02-23) column 5, line 30 - line 59 column 11, line 44 - line 67 | 1-4 |
| A | US 5 483 833 A (DICKENS LARRY M ET AL) 16 January 1996 (1996-01-16) column 6, line 25 - line 62 | 1-4 |
| A | US 5 686 669 A (HERNANDEZ WALTER C ET AL) 11 November 1997 (1997-11-11) column 6, line 10 - line 60 | 1-4 |



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
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- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

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- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
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Date of the actual completion of the international search

17 June 2003

Date of mailing of the international search report

25/06/2003

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

on patent family members

PCT/PL 02/00072

| Patent document cited in search report | | Publication date | Patent family member(s) | Publication date |
|---|---|---------------------|---|--|
| US 5875420 | A | 23-02-1999 | NONE | |
| US 5483833 | A | 16-01-1996 | NONE | |
| US 5686669 | A | 11-11-1997 | CN 1217056 A , B EP 0883797 A1 JP 2000506262 T WO 9732186 A1 | 19-05-1999 16-12-1998 23-05-2000 04-09-1997 |